

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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<b>FSIS DIRECTIVE</b>	5420.5, Revision 2	10/19/06
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**HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT CONDITION RESPONSE -  
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**I. PURPOSE**

This directive details the procedures that personnel of the Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response (OFDER), Food Safety and Inspection Service, will follow when the Department of Homeland Security declares a threat condition Yellow, Orange, or Red.

**II. CANCELLATION**

FSIS Directive 5420.5, Revision 1, dated 1/26/05

**III. REASON FOR REISSUANCE**

This directive is reissued in its entirety to change the name and update the responsibilities for OFDER.

**IV. REFERENCES**

FSIS Directive 5420.1, Rev. 3, Amend. 1 Homeland Security Threat Condition Response – Food Defense Verification Procedures

**V. BACKGROUND**

In 2002, the White House Office of Homeland Security established a Homeland Security Advisory System based on color. This system provides a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. A declaration of a Threat

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Inspection Offices; T/A Inspectors;  
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**OPI:** OPPED

Condition Elevated (Yellow) by the Department of Homeland Security indicates that there is an elevated risk of terrorist attacks. A declaration of a Threat Condition High (Orange) indicates that there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. A declaration of Threat Condition Severe (Red) reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. While the threat may or may not involve the nation's food supply, it is imperative that such threat conditions be communicated effectively and expeditiously to all program areas within FSIS so that appropriate actions can be taken to respond to the threats and ensure the security of meat, poultry, and egg products.

## **VI. NOTIFICATION**

In the event of a declaration of any threat condition:

- Elevated (Yellow), when there is an elevated risk of terrorist attacks,
- High (Orange), when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks, or
- Severe (Red), when there is a severe risk of terrorist attacks,

by the Department of Homeland Security, OFDER will inform the FSIS Administrator and FSIS Management Council and will issue an e-mail letter to all employees notifying them of the heightened threat condition.

## **VII. SPECIFIC THREAT CONDITION ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Threat Condition Elevated (Yellow), High (Orange), or Severe (Red) with no specific threat to the food and agricultural sector.**

OFDER will:

1. Verify the change in the threat condition with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Homeland Security (OHS);
2. Inform the FSIS Administrator and the FSIS Management Council of the change in the threat condition;
3. Send an e-mail message to all employees on the threat condition declaration;
4. Implement procedures for the timely handling of sensitive, classified information between the USDA's OHS and FSIS from a variety of sources, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency;
5. Coordinate with USDA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure that there is a coordinated exchange of information among related Federal food, public health, and agricultural agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense;

6. Implement procedures to ensure a coordinated exchange of information with USDA's Office of Inspector General and Continuity of Operations (COOP) representatives;

6. Conduct briefings, if appropriate, with all program areas regarding additional food defense monitoring and verification activities that may be necessary;

8. Place the FSIS Emergency Management Committee (EMC) on stand-by status; and

9. Communicate the downgrading of a threat condition to the FSIS Administrator and the FSIS Management Council and issue an e-mail to all employees.

**B. Threat Condition High (Orange) or Severe (Red) with a specific threat to the food and agricultural sector.**

OFDER will:

1. Conduct all applicable responsibilities under A above, and

2. Activate the EMC, and, as Incident Commander, the OFDER Assistant Administrator or EMC representative will coordinate the responses of all program areas to the specific threat.

Direct all questions related to this directive through supervisory channels.



Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development